

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, August 25,  
1785, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

New York August 25th. 1785.

Dear Sir

Since my last nothing very material hath taken place here. I leave this merely to inform you of my departure hence for the Indian treaty on the Ohio wh. will be in abt. two hours. The *two commercial propositions* are as they were. *Although Congress will, I believe, not adjourn* yet I apprehend *the business of consequence* will be postpon'd for the present, perhaps till the winter. There is but a *thin represn. of the States & of course not the ability if the inclination to act on these subjects*. I intend to take within my view the country lying between Lake Erie & the Ohio, & the Potowmack or Jas. River, as it may suit me to return by the northern or southern part of the State. I pass thro' Lancaster & Carlisle at the latter of wh. posts I join Genl. Butler. The people of *Kentucky* intend I hear to petition the legislature for a separation. I must confess, I am one of those who doubt the policy of this measure (for I make no doubt it will be granted) either upon *State or Federal principles*. My opinion is we cod. so model our regulations as to accommodate our *government* to their convenience, and unquestionably the more we *diminish the State, the less consequence she will have in the Union*. On the

part of *the Union* or rather *the States upon the Atlantic*, it is, in my opinion, their policy to keep a prevailing influence *upon the Ohio, or to the westward*. What *unites us to them, or*

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*rather them to us when the Missispi shall be open*, remov'd at a distance from whatever may effect us beyond the water *they will* necessarily be but little interested in whatever respects *us*; beside they will outnumber *us in Congress unless we* can fix *their numbers as much as possible*. In my opinion this matter shod. be well investigated before any measure is hastily adopted. I direct your letters to be forwarded to me to Fredericksburg. So soon as I return to the settled country I shall advise you of it & am your affectionate friend & servant, Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress). Words in italics were written in cipher by Monroe.